CLAIMS

1. An object holding tool for holding objects (OB), comprising a gripping unit which is operable between a contracted configuration and an expanded configuration to grip and release objects (OB) in transporting the same, wherein the gripping unit defines a first, outwardly-facing gripping surface (91) which, with the gripping unit in an expanded configuration, acts to grip an inner peripheral surface of an object (OB) of one kind, and a second, inwardly-facing gripping surface (93) which, with the gripping unit in a contracted configuration, acts to grip an outer peripheral surface of an object (OB) of another kind.

2. The holding tool of claim 1, further comprising an actuation mechanism for actuating the gripping unit between the contracted and expanded configurations.

3. The holding tool of claim 2, wherein the actuation mechanism comprises a biasing element (87) for biasing the gripping unit to one of a contracted or expanded configuration and a drive unit which is operable to overcome the bias of the biasing element (87) to drive the gripping unit to the other of the contracted or expanded configuration.

4. The holding tool of claim 3, wherein the biasing element (87) biases the gripping unit to a contracted configuration and the drive unit is operable to drive the gripping unit to an expanded configuration.

5. The holding tool of claim 3 or 4, wherein the biasing element (87) comprises a resilient element.

6. The holding tool of any of claims 3 to 5, wherein the drive unit comprises a diaphragm (85).

7. The holding tool of any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the gripping unit comprises a plurality of gripping jaws (83a-c).

8. The holding tool of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the first surface is of a first diameter and the second surface is of a second diameter greater than the first diameter.

9. An object supporting unit for supporting an object (OB), comprising a lower base member (105), and an upper supporting body member (109) for supporting an object (OB), wherein the body member (109) includes first and second concentric recesses (111, 113), each configured to receive an object (OB) of one of two different kinds and having different depths such that upper ends of the two different kinds of object (OB) are at the same height, or at substantially the same height, when supported in the respective recesses (111, 113).

10. The supporting unit of claim 9, wherein the base member (105) includes a recess (107) in a lower surface thereof for fitting to a structure.

11. A holding tool for holding objects (OB) substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any of FIGURES 8 to 10 of the accompanying drawings.

12. A supporting unit for supporting an object (OB) substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to FIGURE 11 of the accompanying drawings.